

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSI #0201 0351028
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 041028Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY TBILISI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0883
INFO RUEHSI/ODC TBILISI GG PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMCSSU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RULSDMK/NSA US WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TBILISI 000201

SIPDIS

PM/DTCC FOR BLUE LANTERN COORDINATOR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2019

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [KOMC](#) [GG](#)

SUBJECT: GEORGIA: BLUE LANTERN CHECK LICENSE NUMBER
050129249

REF: STATE 03032

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. KENT LOGSDON FOR REASONS 1.4 (b)
AND (d).

¶1. (SBU) Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) officials made reftel inquiries to the Ministry of Defense for the Blue Lantern check for license number 050129249. The check did reveal some irregularities. Neither the Georgian Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Colonel Chachibaia, nor his deputy, Brigadier General Nairashvili, nor the J4 of the Joint Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Tskhvediania, were aware of the request for the purchase. While Chachibaia and Nairashvili did not assume their positions until after the conflict, and therefore may legitimately be unaware of the purchase, Tskhvediania has been in his position since June 2007. The listed purchaser, Alexandre Ninua, is no longer the Head of the State Procurement Department and could not be reached. The acting head of the Procurement Department, Goga Ninua, no relation to Alexandre, was aware of the request, but did not know the reason for the request. He confirmed the quantity and value.

¶2. (C) On the license application, the purpose for the purchase was listed as replacement for firearms destroyed during the Russian invasion of Georgia. However, the DSP-83 was signed on August 8 by the Georgians and August 9 by the Seller. This was before the quantity of weapons lost or destroyed during the Russian invasion was known. The conflict began on August 7. In response to the inquiries for this Blue Lantern check, the Deputy Chief of Staff did report that about 4800 weapons were lost in the conflict.

¶3. (U) POC is Nicole L. O'Brien, Email: o'briennl@state.gov or obriennl@sgov.state.gov.
LOGSDON